

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

1. Claim 1 has been amended to provide that there is a single gas impermeable sheath that has an inner surface and an outer surface, the outer surface of which is hermetically sealed to the terminal lugs. Support for such amendments may be found in the specification of the present application as originally filed and adds no new subject matter.

2. Claim 6 of the present application has been amended to provide that the terminal lugs comprise solid one-piece lugs. Claim 6 has also been amended to provide that there is a single gas impermeable sheath having an inner surface and an outer surface, the outer surface of which is hermetically sealed to each of the terminal lugs. Support for such amendments may be found in the specification of the present application as originally filed and adds no new subject matter.

3. Examiner has rejected independent claim 6 and dependant claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Blaisdell. As discussed above, claim 6 has been amended to provide that the terminal lugs are solid one-piece components. At page 4 of Examiner's Office Communication, Examiner states that Blaisdell does not disclose the terminal lugs being one-piece components. Accordingly, it is submitted that Blaisdell fails to disclose the electrical conducting cable of claim 6 as amended as there is no disclosure or suggestion of a solid one-piece lug. It is respectfully submitted that as such, independent claim 6 and dependant claims 9 and 10 are patentable over Blaisdell and should be allowed.

4. Examiner has rejected claims 7 and 8 over 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blaisdell. For the reasons cited above, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 6 as amended is patentable over Blaisdell. Accordingly, it is submitted that dependant claims 7 and 8 will also be patentable. Allowance of claims 7 and 8 is respectfully requested.

5. Examiner has rejected independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2 to 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blaisdell in view of Barton. In particular, Examiner has indicated

that while Blaisdell does not disclose terminal lugs being one-piece, Barton does disclose a terminal lug which is a solid one-piece terminal lug and that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the terminal lugs of Blaisdell in light of the teachings of Barton. Claim 1 has been amended to provide that there is a single gas impermeable sheath having an inner surface and an outer surface and that the outer service of the sheath is hermetically sealed to the terminal lugs. The gas impermeable sheath of the present application is secured to the terminal lugs by inserting the sheath into a cavity in the terminal lug having interior surfaces coated with a braze alloy paste. The outer surface of the gas impermeable sheath contacts the interior surface of the terminal lug cavity and upon heating a hermetical seal is formed (see paragraph [0017] of the present application).

Blaisdell does not teach the use of a single gas impermeable sheath to achieve hermetic sealing. In contrast, Blaisdell teaches the need for joining not only an impervious inner member, but also a braided outer sheath and a third outer sleeve member to the terminal fitting. The gas tight seal in Blaisdell is formed through a welding process that comprises brazing the impervious inner member to an elongate sleeve member and fusing the outer sleeve member, the outer sheath, the flange and the metal body. A one weld process is also disclosed in Blaisdell. However, in addition to brazing the impervious inner member to the sleeve member, the one weld process also involves the simultaneous welding of an outer sleeve member, an outer sheath and the body of the lug together to form the gas tight seal. Barton is not directed to hermetic sealing and does not disclose the use of a single impermeable sheath.

Further, although Barton discloses a one-piece lug, it is essential element of both Barton and Blaisdell that the conduit element slides over a sleeve member. In Blaisdell, the inner surface of the impervious inner member is fused is bonded to the outer surface of the sleeve member using the braze paste. In Barton, the inner surface of the metal hose engages the outer surface of the sleeve member by means of a swaged ring that exerts compressionable force thereby preventing the hose from slipping off the sleeve member. In contrast, in the invention according to claim 1 of the present application as amended, the outer surface of the gas impermeable sheath is sealed to the terminal lug. There is nothing in either Blaisdell or Barton teaching or suggesting attachment to the end lug using the outside surface of the conduit elements analogous to the gas impermeable sheath of the present

application.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 and dependant claims 2-5 are not obvious in light of Blaisdell having regard to Barton. It is respectfully submitted that these claims should accordingly be allowed.

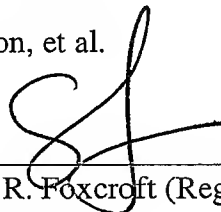
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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